

obtain in the normal behavior of fluctuational variation. This is, as everyone knows, a formidable problem, one that is likely never to be solved to our complete satisfaction because of some of just those difficulties that Dwight complains of throughout the paper cited. But we are going to approach far closer to the ideal than the present stage—provided the work of the open-minded, painstaking yet optimistic student continues to dominate the field.

JOSEPH GRINNELL.

California Museum of Vertebrate Zoölogy,
July 9, 1918.

A Correction.

EDITOR OF 'THE AUK':

My thanks are due to Mr. Alexander Wetmore, not alone for the pleasure, shared with other readers of 'The Auk,' in perusing his valuable contribution on 'The Birds of Desecheo Island, Porto Rico,' but also for having therein called my attention to a hitherto overlooked slip of the pen in my article 'A Day on De Cicheo Island' (*Oölogist*, 1900), whereby (page 117, second paragraph), I referred to the "Sooty Tern" instead of to the Noddy, as should have been the case. This error certainly requires correction, even at this late date.

Of course the character of the slip is at once apparent on referring to my paper on the 'Birds of Porto Rico' (*Auk*, 1902-03), wherein (1902, pages 357-358) the Sooty Tern is correctly recorded as noted only on Mona Island, the Bridled Tern and Noddy, however, having been noted on both Mona and Desecheo Islands.

B. S. BOWDISH.

Newark, N. J., July 11, 1918.

NOTES AND NEWS.

ALL readers of 'The Auk' are familiar with the changes which are continually being proposed in the technical names of our birds and are doubtless reminded of the old saying that 'A rose by any other name will smell as sweet.' Those actively interested in nomenclature know that many of these proposed changes, as well as similar ones in other branches of zoölogy and botany, are necessary in order to conform to the rules adopted to bring about uniformity in scientific nomenclature. What strides have been made toward uniformity and stability in bird names under these rules may be realized by comparing the 'Hand-List' of the B. O. U. and the A. O. U. 'Check-List' (cf. *Auk*, 1915, p. 243).

Other proposed changes involving the acceptance or rejection of newly described races, subdivisions of genera etc., depend upon individual opinion and can only be decided by an authoritative list prepared by a committee

of arbitration. Such a list is our A. O. U. 'Check-List' prepared by the A. O. U. Committee on Classification and Nomenclature, and the great majority of our readers who are not interested in the technicalities of nomenclature turn to this check-list when they wish to make use of scientific names.

This work can of necessity never be up to date and for the convenience of those who wish to keep up with the technicalities a series of annual lists of *proposed* changes and additions to the 'Check-List' appears in the April issue of 'The Auk,' compiled by Dr. Harry C. Oberholser and embodying the compiler's opinions upon certain of the cases. These lists however, carry no further authority and no action has as yet been taken by the A. O. U. Committee on any of the cases contained therein.

It seems desirable that this fact be strongly emphasized since the 'Lists' have been confused by some with the 'Supplements to the Check-List' issued under the authority of the Committee. A case in point is Mrs. Florence Merriam Bailey's excellent 'List of the Birds of Glacier National Park' which is stated to follow the '1910 A. O. U. Check-List revised to the April 1918 Auk.' As the list of proposed changes in the April 1918 'Auk' and its predecessors contain no decisions by the A. O. U. Committee it is obvious that any "revision" of the 'Check-List' based upon them is purely the selection or rejection of such names there included as the author may choose.

While in technical papers representing original research in nomenclature it is perfectly proper for an author to propose or endorse names differing from those used in the 'Check-List,' it seems most undesirable to do so in local North American lists or in popular articles or such as are written for public instruction, as Mrs. Bailey's list above quoted or Dr. Oberholser's census of birds in the vicinity of Washington, D. C. (see *antea* p. 492). In the latter only technical names are used and as the average reader of the census will be unable to locate a number of them in the A. O. U. 'Check-List,' the only check-list available to him (or in any other, for that matter) he will be unable to understand what birds Dr. Oberholser is writing about. We do not question the accuracy of Dr. Oberholser's nomenclature — there are few better authorities on the subject — nor the probability that the A. O. U. Committee will ultimately endorse most of his decisions, but until they do so it seems that the use of these "advanced" names in such publications retards instead of advances ornithology. We must consider our readers and write in the language that they can understand.

That it is not necessary to be "up to the minut" in matters of nomenclature in order to do excellent ornithological work may be seen in the publications of the members of the Cooper Ornithological Club. Our Californian co-workers it is true recognize certain races not accepted in the A. O. U. 'Check-List' but in matters of pure nomenclature, generic division, etc., they are content to follow the 'Check-List.'¹ 'The Auk' has not

¹ Names of new races not yet included in the 'Check-List' may of course be employed if desired with footnotes showing their equivalents in the 'Check-List' nomenclature.

been as careful as it should have been in this matter but in the future all contributors will be requested to conform strictly with the 'Check-List' in all local lists unless footnote equivalents are given.

This whole matter takes on a very much more serious aspect just at present, for, as will be seen below, the time is ripe for a very much wider uniformity in nomenclature, through the co-operation of all English speaking ornithologists, and unless we agree to sink our personal preferences so far as ordinary publications go and use the nomenclature endorsed by our national organization, what hope can there be for international agreement?

We do not in any way wish to criticise the excellent papers which we have used as examples. They simply happened to be among the publications reviewed in this issue. It is the *principle* that we are considering and we feel sure that most or all of those who have employed "advanced nomenclature" for "every day use" did so thoughtlessly or were misled as to the character of the 'Lists of Proposed Changes' published in 'The Auk.'—
WITMER STONE.

IN reviewing the recent 'Hand-List of British Birds' by Dr. Hartert and his associates the Editor of 'The Auk' had occasion to comment upon the remarkable correspondence between the nomenclature there adopted and that of the A. O. U. Check-List in cases where the same genera or species were considered and concluded with the following: "This comparison shows that it will now be very easy for American and British ornithologists to come together on matters of nomenclature."

The time for bringing about this result seems to have arrived, thanks to the initiative taken by the Committee of the British Ornithologists' Union. Some months ago they appointed a committee on a 'Systema Avium' consisting of Lord Rothschild, Drs. Eagle Clark and Hartert, Messrs. G. M. Mathews, T. Iredale, W. L. Selater, E. C. Stuart Baker and C. Chubb. It was proposed that this committee enter into correspondence with the A. O. U. to propose a joint list of bird names of the world to be known as the 'Systema Avium.' The suggestion is that the work consist of six volumes covering the six great zoölogical regions, the A. O. U. being responsible for North and South America and the B. O. U. for the Old World volumes, and that a joint committee settle all questions of nomenclature of genera and species where they are not already in accord.

The matter will come before the A. O. U. at its next meeting and it is to be hoped that in the near future the actual work may be under way although publication will of course be out of the question until after the war. Such a work endorsed by all the English speaking people of the world would go a long way toward establishing a universal nomenclature for birds.

As is generally known legislation for the protection of migratory birds in North America has taken the form of a treaty between the United States and Great Britain, putting the matter on a more stable and permanent basis than could be done in any other way. After being ratified by both

governments the treaty was proclaimed by the President on December 8, 1916. Canada by an act of Parliament gave full effect to the convention August 29, 1917, and issued regulations, May 11, 1918. Congress took similar action on July 3, 1918 and on the 31st of the same month President Wilson issued a proclamation containing regulations for the enforcement of the treaty in the United States, so that the treaty is now in full force.

The birds covered by the regulations include the Anatidæ, Gruidæ, Rallidæ, Limicolæ, Columbidæ and all migratory insectivorous birds as well as Grebes, Loons, Auks, Herons, Gulls and Terns, Petrels and Shearwaters. The open seasons correspond closely with those previously in force under the Migratory Bird Law, but everyone should secure a copy of the pamphlet issued by the Department of Agriculture which contains the text of the treaty and the regulations.

The section which especially interests field ornithologists is that dealing with collecting for scientific purposes. Every collector of birds or eggs must hereafter have a permit from the Secretary of Agriculture, and anyone collecting without such permit will be vigorously prosecuted by the Federal authorities. Permits may be obtained without cost by applying to the Secretary of Agriculture but the applicant must have the endorsement of two well-known ornithologists. Blanks for application may be had from the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

COL. WILLIAM VINCENT LEGGE, a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at his home in Tasmania on March 25, 1918, in his 75th year. He was born at Fullenswood, near St. Mary's, Tasmania, September, 1841, the son of R. V. Legge one of the earliest settlers of the country. We learn from 'The Emu,' that he went to England with his parents at the age of 12, crossing the isthmus of Panama on mule back. He was educated at Bath and also in France and Germany, becoming an accomplished linguist. Receiving his commission in the British Army in 1862 he was successively stationed in England, Melbourne and Ceylon his final appointment being Commandant of the Tasmanian Military forces, which position he held for eleven years, retiring from the service after the Boer War. His later years were spent in agricultural pursuits on his home estate.

Col. Legge's chief interests outside of his profession were, forestry, physiography and ornithology. He was one of the founders of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union and its first president. During his nine years service in Ceylon he gathered the materials for his most important ornithological work, 'The Birds of Ceylon' in two volumes, quarto, with colored plates, which he published during a subsequent staff appointment in England. During his sojourns in that country he was very intimate with the late Dr. Bowdler Sharpe and frequently visited John Gould, the "father of Australian ornithology." Among Col. Legge's other ornithological publications may be mentioned, his 'Systematic List of Tasmanian Birds. The Geographical Distribution of the Australian Limicolæ'

while he took an important part in the compilation of the List of Vernacular Names of Australian Birds' and the R. A. O. U. Check-List.

DR. ROBERT LATSHAW WALKER, an Associate Member of the A. O. U., died at Carnegie, Pa., November 19, 1916, in his seventy-ninth year. Dr. Walker was born in Pittsburgh, July 26, 1838, and at the age of sixteen removed with his parents to Woodville, where he grew to manhood. His early education was obtained at the Western University of Pennsylvania (now University of Pittsburgh), and he took his medical degree at the University of Pennsylvania. In 1866 he began the practice of his profession in what was then Mansfield Valley, now the borough of Carnegie. Dr. Walker was always a lover of outdoor sports and natural history, and had amassed a library of considerable size on these subjects, of which ornithological books formed a large part. He was elected an Associate Member of the A. O. U. in 1888, and while he did not, so far as known to the writer, contribute to the ornithological magazines, he was well informed on the subject in general, and took a great interest in the progress of the science. Dr. Walker had a personality that endeared him to a large circle of friends and acquaintances, by whom he is surely missed.—W. E. CLYDE TODD.

PROFESSOR JONATHAN YOUNG STANTON, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, 1883-1918, died at his home in Lewiston, Maine, February 17, 1918, of pneumonia after a short illness.

Professor Stanton was born in Lebanon, Maine, in June, 1834, and graduated from Bowdoin College in the class of 1856. He took up the study of law in the office of D. C. Christie, Dover, N. H., for a time; but relinquishing the law, with the exception of two or more years at the Theological Seminary at Andover, Mass., devoted himself to the office of a teacher: two years in the New Hampton Institution, New Hampshire, and two years as principal of Pinkerton Academy, Derry, New Hampshire. In 1863 he was elected Professor of Greek and Latin in Bates College, Lewiston, Maine, holding this position until 1906 when failing health forced him to resign his active professorship, when he was made Professor emeritus. In 1874 he travelled abroad.

Professor Stanton was a man of broad scholarship, and among numerous other subjects, took a deep interest in the study of ornithology. For many years he conducted classes in this subject both in the lecture room and in the field, and after his retirement in 1906 until about a year before his death continued to give lectures and conduct field classes.

Though of a modest and retiring nature, through a correspondence with prominent naturalists in this country and in Europe, including Darwin and Wallace; and through his long labors at the College, he became widely known to ornithologists and bird lovers. Many a teacher today is passing on the inspiration received from Professor Stanton.

Early in life he began the formation of a collection of birds and an ornitho-

thological library, which became quite notable and were recently installed in the College museum and library.

With his splendid equipment and profound knowledge, it is to be regretted that he wrote almost nothing for publication. Deeply as he loved the works of nature, his deepest love and sympathy was directed to man, and especially to the young men and women of the College, who came to regard him with an unusual degree of reverence.

At the first meeting of the Maine Ornithological Society, held in Gardiner, Maine, December, 1896, he was elected to Honorary membership.

In 1866 he was married to Harriet P. Woodman of Portland, whom he survived by about twenty-two years.

Two good photographs of Professor Stanton are to be found in Carrie E. Miller's, *Birds of Lewiston-Auburn and Vicinity*, published at Lewiston, 1918.—A. H. NORTON.

THE National Academy of Sciences at its April meeting awarded to Dr. Frank M. Chapman, curator of ornithology at the American Museum of Natural History, the first Daniel Giraud Elliot medal and honorarium, for his recent work on the distribution of bird-life in Colombia.

The Elliot fund was established by Miss Margaret Henderson Elliot in memory of her father and the award is to be made annually for pre-eminence in zoölogy or paleontology. Ornithologists throughout the country, we feel sure, will heartily endorse the action of the National Academy. It is particularly gratifying that an ornithologist should be the first to be so honored and peculiarly appropriate that one so closely associated with Dr. Elliot should receive the first Elliot medal. Incidentally it may be mentioned that on March 1, 1918, Dr. Chapman completed his thirtieth year of connection with the American Museum, being now second in point of seniority on its scientific staff.

DR. CHARLES W. RICHMOND, for many years Assistant Curator of the Division of Birds in the United States National Museum, has recently been appointed Associate Curator. Mr. B. H. Swales has been appointed Honorary Curator of birds' eggs in the same institution.

AGITATION for increasing the catch of fish as an emergency measure for food supply during the war has caused undue agitation against the Pelicans especially in the Gulf States. The National Association of Audubon Societies and the Conservation Commission of Louisiana have undertaken an investigation of the food of the bird and the Audubon Society of Florida has issued a pamphlet in its defence. The reports of its destruction of food fishes have evidently been greatly exaggerated.

At the annual meeting of the British Ornithologists' Union held on March 13, 1918, Dr. W. Eagle Clarke was elected president to succeed Col. R. Wardlaw Ramsey who had served for the last five years. The membership of the Union stands as follows: Ordinary 423, Extraordinary

1, Honorary 8, Honorary Lady (the only lady members) 8, Colonial 9, and Foreign 19. The Honorary and Foreign (equivalent to the Corresponding Class of the A. O. U.) it will be noticed are much more restricted than in the A. O. U. The American ornithologists represented in these classes are as follows:

Honorary, Dr. J. A. Allen, Dr. Frank M. Chapman, Dr. Harry C. Oberholser, Dr. Chas. W. Richmond and Mr. Robert Ridgway.

Foreign, Dr. Leonhard Stejneger and Dr. Witmer Stone.

THE ASSOCIATES OF THE A. O. U.—The By-Laws of the Union provide that Associates shall be unlimited in number but shall be residents of America. So long as a person maintains residence in America he may keep his status as an Associate even though he may reside temporarily in a distant part of the world. Thus at the present time one Associate is living in British Papua, another in Ceylon, and a third in Samoa.

At the first meeting 87 Associates were elected but apparently several failed to qualify, for at the next meeting in spite of the fact that only two deaths had occurred during the year the number was reported as only 63. In April 1918, the total number as shown by the list published in 'The Auk' was 745 including 5 Life Associates. Of these, 142, or nearly 20 per cent were women. Practically all of the 120 persons that have been elected Members and about one half of the present Fellows were originally elected as Associates. In addition to losses by resignation or otherwise the losses by death since the organization of the Union have been 165.

The class of Associates includes several distinct groups. It comprises not only the younger bird students and those who on account of a general interest in birds wish to keep in touch with the progress of bird study, but also those who have a temporary interest in ornithology. The more active ornithologists and especially those who are engaged in bird study in a professional capacity are usually promoted to the classes of Members and Fellows. Unfortunately many of those whose interest is only temporary drop out after a few years so that changes are frequent and extensive. But in spite of these changes the class of Associates forms a very important part of the membership. It includes much of the enthusiasm, vigor and strength of the Union and every effort should be made to stabilize it and increase it to several times its present size.—T. S. P.

CALLED TO THE COLORS.—Since the publication of the July number of 'The Auk' of the third list of A. O. U. members in military service, a few additional names and changes have been reported. The additions are as follows:

BERGTOLD, DR. WILLIAM HARRY, Denver, Colo. Major Medical Corps, U. S. Gen. Hospital No. 21, Denver, Col.

BRITTEN, DR. GEORGE SIDNEY, Syracuse, N. Y. Captain Medical Corps, American Expeditionary Forces, in France.

DICE, LEE RAYMOND, Washington, D. C. Private 5th Co., 2d Training Battalion, 154th Depot Brigade, Camp Meade, Md.

- FOWLER, FREDERICK HALL, Palo Alto, Calif. Captain of Engineers, Office Chief of Engineers, Washington, D. C.
- FRY, REV. HENRY JACOB, Montclair, N. J. Chaplain U. S. Navy.
- LORING, JOHN ALDEN, Owego, N. Y. Captain of Ordnance.
- MURIE, OLAUS JOHAN, Moorhead, Minn. Cadet Army Balloon School, Fort Omaha, Nebr.
- OVERTON, DR. FRANK, Patchogue, N. Y. Captain Medical Corps, Fort Oglethorpe, Ga.
- POOLE, EARL L., Reading, Pa. Signal Service, in France.
- SWEENEY JOSEPH A. Halsey, Nebr. Private Co. E, 2d Battalion, 20th Engineers (Forest), American Expeditionary Forces, in France.

The following changes and corrections should also be mentioned. Major Philip J. McCook is now Adjutant of the 9th Brigade in France. Lieut. Francis Harper and Lieut. E. G. Holt have been promoted to 1st Lieutenant and transferred to the Sanitary Corps. Tracy I. Storer has also been commissioned a 1st Lieutenant in the Sanitary Corps and detailed on the laboratory car 'Metchnikoff,' at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas. F. C. Lincoln is an acting sergeant in the Pigeon Section of the 293d Aero Squadron at March Field, Riverside, Calif., and Charles H. Rogers is a Sergeant in the 31st Machine Gun Battalion, 11th Division, Camp Meade, Md. Private F. G. Hall is in the Aviation Section of the Signal Corps at Madison Barracks, N. Y. Private F. P. Metcalf has been transferred to the U. S. Signal Corps Radio School at College Park, Md., and Walt. F. McMahan a private in Infantry is now in France. The name of Horace W. Wright was included in the last list through error.

In the Canadian Forces Ernest M. Anderson is in A Co., R. C. R., B. C. Special Service Unit at Quebec; Harrison M. Laing is in the Instructional Section of the School of Aerial Gunnery at Beamsville, Ontario; and Harrison F. Lewis has been discharged on account of disability and is now District Auditor in Militia District No. 5 at Quebec.

Relatives or friends who may have additional information concerning these or other members are requested to communicate at once with the Secretary giving any facts as to rank, branch of the service or present location of members in military service in order that necessary corrections in the list may be made before the annual meeting.

T. S. Palmer,
Secretary.

1939 Biltmore St., N. W.
Washington, D. C.

ATTENTION is again called to the thirty-sixth stated meeting of the A. O. U. to be held at the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, November 12-14, 1918. As many of our members are now serving their country the duty of keeping alive the activities of the society in which all are so deeply interested, devolves upon those who are still at home. It is to be hoped that everyone who can possibly do so will arrange to attend the New York meeting.